

MEMORANDUM

To: Ted Kaczynski/Richard Bonnie
From: Beau Friedlander
Re: 60 Minutes interview/conditions
Date: March 12, 1999

With the 1-month hiatus passed (long ago) I have finally met with Vicki Gordon and Bob Anderson to discuss the details with regard to an interview.

As we already know, they are very eager to do a story. A few of the more trivial points first:

- All airfare would be paid by CBS, which would include any necessary preparatory meetings between TJK & RJB, or to meet with RJB, EBF, etc.
- They are willing to do one or two segments (i.e., fourteen to twenty-eight minutes).

I think the program might need to be three segments, but that would depend on how we react to the less trivial matters that have been connected to any future interview. Gordon and Anderson have agreed to the following:

1. TJK sets the agenda for the segment(s) *see item 4*.
2. The segment(s) produced by 60 Minutes will consist of interviews with TJK and RJB only. 60 Minutes will consider interviewing a short list of other people deemed relevant by TJK as they have bearing on *item 1*.
3. RJB will be able to effect necessary legal edits. This will be a binding agreement, and the language will cite "necessary legal editing." 60 Minutes would prefer that RJB interrupt the interview when necessary. After explaining the problem with this method, they agreed that it would be necessary for RJB to see transcripts of all interviews conducted given the complexity of the legal issues that are at stake in the petition to vacate the guilty plea.

4. TJK and RJB will be able to delineate the "areas" or topics to be discussed (i.e., activism, the non-trial, the appeal, *Truth versus Lies*, family relations). This was explained as follows: TJK will "lead" the interview. 60 Minutes is interested in the topics TJK wishes to discuss, so in this sense TJK has some control over the tenor of the interview.

Note: Mike Wallace will conduct the interview. Various media people have told me that he no longer conducts "ambush" interviews. He seemed genuinely interested during my brief encounter with him. The above concessions are not negligible. Worst case scenario: an interesting game of chess. The interview will only take two hours and they are willing to wait until Autumn, or they can proceed at your earliest convenience.

During the process of establishing the above outline, Vicki Gordon and Bob Anderson were pleasant and demonstrated a serious attitude when confronted with my concern that 60 Minutes might not produce a fair and balanced treatment in the proposed segment(s). I believe that they are honest — *as can be expected*.

They have been forthright about the parameters of their reporting standards. I had tried to get a commitment to the following:

"TJK provides a list of people to be interviewed. 60 Minutes will create a binding agreement and will interview only those people listed, but not necessarily all of them."

They could not agree to this because it went against the CBS News Standards, which seems to be a tome worthy of Kafka's bookworm bureaucrats in *The Castle*. At any rate, Anderson offered that although 60 Minutes could not allow outside parties to determine their editorial practices, we should bear in mind that they *are* willing to stick with those people who are deemed relevant by TJK *see item 2*. The "sticking point" was my use of the word "only." I did not find anything suspect with regard to Anderson's objection, both Gordon and Anderson seemed genuinely interested in faithfully portraying TJK while staying within the bounds of the procedures demanded by their news standards.

In full consideration of the items in the above outline, I believe this is a favorable environment for TJK, and that he will not suffer ~~any~~ "transmission loss" due to intrusive editorial interference or ideological censorship/character distortion.

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Note: additions came after shewing a copy to EO thin.

Return-path: <simnyc@interport.net>
Date: Thu, 18 Mar 1999 15:14:41 -0500
From: Context Books <simnyc@interport.net>
To: Richard Bonnie <rbonnie@law1.law.virginia.edu>
Subject: Ted's Last Letter

Dear Richard,

I hope things are progressing. Just a quick message for Ted when you next talk to him or correspond: the deadline for the publication of Truth Versus Lies is not set in stone. Nothing will be printed until he is thoroughly satisfied with the state of the manuscript, and if it takes additional time, so be it.

As for the 60 Minutes proposal, sounds like it's going to have to wait until after May 4...

I hope you are well. Beau

